

Mr. Lindsay's Comments Regarding
the Establishment of a Joint Committee
on Foreign Information & Intelligence

Mr. Lindsay cited and "refuted" what he considers to be the three main arguments against the establishment of a Joint Congressional Committee to oversee the affairs of the CIA:

(1) the need for secrecy - but Congress has always asserted its right to concern itself with even the most sensitive areas of Government;

(2) the CIA exists to serve the President and the NSC, and Congress is without jurisdiction - but consider the work of the House Committees on Foreign Affairs, Government Operations, and the Senate Subcommittee on National Security Staffing and Operations;

(3) Congressional oversight is already adequate - but Senate Armed Services Subcommittee devotes only "several hours" (Per year) to this important area.

After asserting that CIA is a policy-making body, he outlined his two general reasons for supporting a Joint Committee:

(1) the copious criticisms leveled at CIA;

(2) his personal abhorrence of "government by secrecy."

Specifically, Mr. Lindsay thought such a committee should focus on the following four "problems":

(1) CIA - State relations, to eliminate counter-productive efforts;

(2) the advisability of assigning to one Agency both the functions of intelligence collection and the mounting of "special" PM type "operations";

(3) the recruitment policies of CIA to see if, in political orientation, its personnel are monolithic;

(4) the organization of the estimating process in which CIA seems to play the dual role of participant and chief coordinator.

Another possible area of investigation to which Mr. Lindsay alluded was the reported increasing centralization of authority within the intelligence community.

Mr. Lindsay, perhaps in an effort to be fair, had quite a few nice things to say about the Agency and its personnel, and admitted throughout that he spoke without any first hand knowledge of Agency policies or activities.